

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DIE...

Larry R. Ping II

If you are a believer in the Bible, it then is an undisputed fact Jesus did die. The following verses affirm this fact.

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Pet. 3:18).

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:6-8).

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (I Thess. 5:9-10).

We often speak (as we should) about why Jesus died. We enumerate and sing about the power which is in

His divine blood. However, it might do us all some good to itemize the reasons why Christ did not die. Will you study?

1. JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DIE TO PURCHASE MULTIPLE CHURCHES. In fact, His own words were, "*upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*" (Matt. 16:18). Notice the word "church," not churches. As well, observe the word "it," not them. Paul taught there is "one body" (Eph. 4:4) and that the body is "the church" (Eph. 1:22-23). Luke informs his readers about the "church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Again, see the singularity of the word church. All of these verses help us to appreciate Jesus Christ did not die to purchase multiple churches.

2. JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DIE SO SOME MEN MIGHT BE SAVED. Some in the religious world teach that God (through the death of his Son) has already

pre-determined who is going to Heaven and who is going to Hell. We are told this decision is so fixed, there is absolutely nothing I can do to change it from one to the other. My friends, this is simply not true. The Word of God affirms, "*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man*" (Heb. 2:9). Jesus said, "*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me*" (Jn. 12:32). John wrote Jesus "*is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world*" (I Jn. 2:2). After reading these verses and noticing the words "every," "all" and "whole," how can one say Jesus' divine blood only atones a certain chosen segment of the world. These passages help us to understand Jesus Christ did not die so just some might be saved.

3. JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DIE SO THAT MAN COULD PICK AND CHOOSE WHICH LAW HE WISHES TO OBEY. Paul penned to the Romans, "*For*

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Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Rom. 10:4). In instructing the Galatians Paul taught, "*the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith*" (Gal. 3:24). In both of these verses, the word "law" is making reference to the Law of Moses, which comprises a bulk of the Old Testament. Romans 7:1-4 makes it clear man cannot live under two laws at once. We do live under a law today to which we owe our allegiance and obedience. It is referred to as the "*law of Christ*" (Gal. 6:2) and the "*law of liberty*" (Jam. 1:25; Jam. 2:12). It is this law, and law alone we are to obey. We are not at liberty to pick and choose different parts of different laws we like, leaving other parts undone. When Jesus Christ died, the Law of Moses died with Him, and ushered in the time when we obey the New Testament only (Heb. 9:16-17). James warned, "*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all*" (Jam. 2:10). In other words, if one intends to keep part of a law, he must keep all

all of that law! For instance, if one is going to tithe (Lev. 27:30-32), then he must also contact a priest in order to make a sacrifice for sin (Lev. 1:2ff). If one is going to keep the Sabbath holy (Exo. 20:8), he must also be willing to have his stubborn and rebellious children stoned to death (Dte. 21:18-21). Jesus Christ did not die so that I could just pick which laws I wanted to keep. It simply is not so!

4. JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DIE SO THAT MEMBERS OF HIS CHURCH COULD DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED.

The Church is His. He planned it (Eph. 3:10-11). He built it (Matt. 16:18). He died and shed His blood for the purchase of it (Acts 20:28). He is the Savior of it (Eph. 5:23). This is precisely why Paul authors, "*Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you*" (Rom. 16:16). The "church of Christ" is a body of believers who have been called out of the world into a relationship with God, who belong to Christ. Since these things are absolutely and Biblically true,

it behooves the Church to obey the following Divine Words. "*Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him*" (Col. 3:17).

Many religious bodies, including those who once were previously faithful to God and His Word have given up on Christ and His Gospel as Divine magnets (Jn. 12:32; Rom. 1:16). Instead, they have resorted to using food, fun and frolic as lures. This is done despite the Good Book saying, "*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost*" (Rom. 14:17). It sometimes is difficult to be patient while waiting for the seed (Lk. 8:11) to find lodging in open and receptive hearts. Recall, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord*" (I Cor. 15:58). Jesus Christ did not die so that His Church could behave however they want. Not so!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm